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Second regular session of 1991
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL

Letter dated 6 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Statement issued by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on 5 February 1991 regarding the adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session of resolution 45/190, entitled "International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council under the relevant agenda items.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations

READEX FICHE

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on 5 February 1991

The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR regards the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session of a resolution on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant as a confirmation of the international community's readiness to mobilize efforts to solve a group of problems related to the most extensive technological and environmental disaster of modern times. We are grateful to all the States Members of the United Nations which supported that resolution, which is so important to the Ukrainian SSR, and demonstrated their determination to make a genuine contribution to the development of international co-operation based on universal human values and the new political thinking.

Of particular importance are the specific provisions of the resolution which confirm the idea of broad international co-operation, free from the limitations of particular ideologies or political blocs, to deal with problems created by the Chernobyl accident. The implementation of those provisions will make it possible to establish effective co-operation among the organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and will enable them to make a substantial contribution to the considerable and long-term efforts to mitigate the consequences of the accident. Regular contacts with the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the United Nations will be particularly important and will contribute to the solution of the problems of Chernobyl.

For us, 26 April is a day of memory and grief. However, Chernobyl is not only the memory of the tragic days of 1986. It is also a manifestation of compassion and mercy, confirmed by the moral and material assistance which the Ukraine is currently receiving from all over the world. We are grateful to all those who helped the Ukrainian people in its time of tribulation.

Chernobyl is a tragedy but, at the same time, it is also a harsh lesson which must become a reference point for determining the degree of moral and social responsibility we all bear towards present and future generations. That responsibility obliges and compels us to unite our efforts to save life on Earth. General Assembly resolution 45/190 is a step in that direction, and the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR will contribute in every way possible to the implementation of its provisions.

The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR calls upon peoples of all countries, their parliaments and Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, the general public and individuals to do their utmost to ensure the most effective implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned resolution and to provide comprehensive assistance to the Ukraine in order to help mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.